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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v9-i7/6137>

DOI: 10.6007/IJARBSS/v9-i7/6137

Received: 16 May 2019, **Revised:** 22 June 2019, **Accepted:** 06 July 2019

Published Online: 26 July 2019

In-Text Citation: (Ab-Rahim & Mohammed, 2019)

To Cite this Article: Ab-Rahim, R., & Mohammed, M. (2019). Multidimensional Poverty Index of Niger State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 9(7), 451–460.

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Vol. 9, No. 7, 2019, Pg. 451 - 460

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Multidimensional Poverty Index of Niger State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Past studies have tended to focus on measuring monetary poverty based on poverty line income; thus, this study aims to investigate the monetary poverty and the multidimensional poverty index (MPI) of 432 households in Niger State, Nigeria. Interestingly, the results indicate 13 per cent of those above poverty line income (non-poor) are found to be multidimensional poor. Hence, this paper suggests that the monetary measure of poverty should be complemented with multidimensional measure. The results of this study also show poverty is apparent in essential living standard and health among the households as spelled out by inadequate access to portable drinking water, poor sanitary facilities, electricity supply, primitive cooking fuel as well as limited access to improved health facilities. The results imply that effective policies towards general infrastructural development will greatly contribute to poverty reduction.

Keywords: Monetary Poverty, Multidimensional Poverty, Poor, Poverty Line, Nigeria

Introduction

Poverty hinders the economic development and it promotes absence of economic prospect among households; Ogbeide and Agu (2015) suggest income inequality fosters the absence of opportunities among the households. Poverty is regarded as a universal disease which negatively affects Human Development Index (HDI), lessening people's lifespan and schooling level, as well as promoting high fertility rate (Mariyanti and Mahfdz 2016). World Bank (2015a) defines absolute poverty as living on or below \$1.90 per day; on this note, World Bank (2015b) states 9.6 per cent (%) of the world's population living in severe poverty. In Sub-Sahara Africa region, about 35.2% of her population lives in absolute poverty and approximately, 70% of the Nigeria population lives in extreme poverty while in Niger State alone, about 61.2% of her population lives in absolute poverty (World Bank 2017).

In the context of Nigeria, past studies such as Obah and Onuoha (2013), Ogbuabor et al. (2013), Ibrahim and Ladan (2014), and Mamman et al. (2015) measure poverty based on monetary, whereby a person or household is poor if his or the household income is below the poverty line income. Though this is straight forward, income poverty fails to capture multiple deprivations of education, health and standard of living dimensions (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative 2016). Hence,